

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Farm Service Agency

P.O. Box 2415

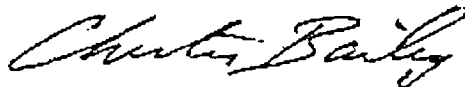
Washington, DC 20013-2415

**Notice FC-44**

For: State and County Offices

**Temporary Changes Made to Expedite Emergency Loan Processing**

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Credit Programs



**1 Overview**

**A**

**Background**

Poor weather conditions and an array of natural disasters have resulted in a large number of counties throughout the country receiving disaster declarations.

In addition, the reorganization of USDA has significantly changed staffing levels in County Offices, making it difficult to meet time frames for processing the large number of emergency (EM) loan applications.

These issues have signaled a need to further streamline the loan making process, or to implement temporary timesaving solutions. These temporary changes or modifications are intended only to expedite the process, not to circumvent or remove any statutory requirements.

**B**

**Purpose**

This notice provides:

- temporary administrative changes to FmHA Instruction 1945-D
- guidance for expediting EM loan processing.

**C**

**Contact**

Questions regarding implementation of this notice may be directed to Farm Credit Programs, LMD, through the Area Office.

**Disposal Date**

October 1, 1996

**Distribution**

State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices and Ag Credit Teams

## Notice FC-44

### 2 Action

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#### A

##### SED Action

SED's shall take the following actions.

Step	Action
1	Monitor all EM loan application activity, as well as the need for and availability of resources to assist the County Office with the timely processing of EM loans.
2	Make every effort to shift staff resources, if available, to areas demonstrating the need for additional assistance.
3	Consider other resources such as contracting appraisals and the effective use of in-house appraisers.

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#### B

##### Ag Credit Team Action

Ag Credit Teams are authorized to implement the following temporary administrative changes.

Step	Action
1	Approve loans based on a handwritten Farm and Home Plan.  Note: The Ag Credit Teams will be required to complete the automated Farm and Home Plan within 60 days after loan closing.
2	In States where an underwriting review process requires all loans to be reviewed before loan approval, Ag Credit Teams will not be required to submit files for review before approval. Only post-approval reviews will be completed.  Note: This applies to those loan requests that are within the Ag Credit Team's loan approval authority as prescribed in FmHA Instruction 1901-A.
3	Verify disaster benefits and complete and sign Form FmHA 1945-29, "ASCS Verification of Farm Acreage, Production and Benefits". This form does not have to be completed by another FSA employee.  Individuals completing FmHA 1945-29 must be able to perform a thorough review of agency records and ensure that all benefits are fully documented.

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